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# Milwaukee Municipal Court

## ANNUAL REPORT



Judge Valarie A. Hill  
Branch One  
5/1/04 - Present



Judge David R. Halbrooks  
Branch One  
8/6/03 - 4/30/04



Judge Derek C. Mosley  
Branch Two  
8/1/02 - Present



Judge James A. Gramling, Jr.  
Branch Three  
1986 - Present

### Message from the Presiding Judge

In 2004 and 2005, the judiciary, administrators, managers, professional and clerical staff who comprise the Court continued their undaunted efforts to serve the public in a fair and reliable manner while focusing on accessibility, timeliness, effectiveness, and efficiency. The 2004-2005 Annual Report reflects our understanding of the judiciary's responsibility in an ever-changing world. The efforts of the judges and staff to carry out our responsibilities are described in this report.

Case filings in 2004 (137,432) were down from 2003 (175,852) by approximately 20 percent. Case filings in 2005 (131,732) were down from 2003 by approximately 25 percent and down from 2004 by approximately 7 percent. The Court has, however, seen an increase in both Parking cases and Operating Without Valid Registration cases. Those cases now represent 12 percent of the total case filings.

In 2004, we conducted a successful "Drivers License Workforce Development Program," assisting approximately 1,000 citizens in obtaining their drivers license. The goal of this program was to assist citizens in obtaining a drivers license with the hope of facilitating their gaining and maintaining employment.

Also in 2004, we welcomed a new judge. Judge Valarie A. Hill was elected Judge (Branch 1) in the April 2004 election. Judge Hill became the first African-American female Municipal Court Judge in the City of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin. Previously Judge Hill had served as a Milwaukee County Judicial Court Commissioner.

Finally, I wish to thank my fellow judges, the court staff, Justice 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the many community-based organizations that assisted us in meeting our objective to enhance the quality of justice in the City of Milwaukee. Finally, we appreciate the continued support received from the Mayor's Office and the Common Council.

**Derek C. Mosley**

## CASE FILINGS, 2004 - 2005

	2004	2005
Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)	505	553
Parking	6,962	5,197
Other Traffic Violations	91,174	85,470
Neighborhood Services	2,269	2,000
Health	104	99
Other Non-Traffic	39,846	37,791
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,860</b>	<b>131,710</b>

The Case Filings Report shows the year-to-date totals of cases added to the system during 2004 and 2005, respectively.

## CASE DISPOSITIONS 2004 - 2005

	Guilty Sentence		Suspended Sentence		Dismissed/ Not Guilty		Appeals to Circuit Court	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
OWI	507	519	1	3	64	34	0*	0*
Parking	6,072	4,538	266	210	637	575	1	18
Other Traffic	88,612	81,699	1,491	1,290	4,907	4,612	28	14
Neighborhood Services	1,726	1,978	27	38	431	392	11	9
Health	92	90	1	0	95	80	0	0
Other Non-Traffic	36,474	33,344	939	913	6,240	5,358	26	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>133,483</b>	<b>122,168</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>12,374</b>	<b>11,051</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>

\*Transfers that are included in "Other Traffic"

The Case Dispositions Report includes cases that were added to the system prior to 2004 and 2005 and shows accumulated counts based on the most current adjudication for each case type. Therefore, the totals on the Case Filings and Case Dispositions Reports do not match.

## REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES 2004 - 2005

	2004	2005
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>\$9,935,129</b>	<b>\$9,882,940</b>
<b>Sent to Milwaukee County</b>		
Jail Assessment	\$758,033	\$683,354
Driver Improvement	\$76,029	66,360
<b>Total to Milwaukee County</b>	<b>\$834,062</b>	<b>\$749,714</b>
<b>Sent to the State of Wisconsin</b>		
Driver Improvement	\$47,596	\$41,542
State Clerk Fee	\$408,812	368,687
State Tax	\$1,083,908	1,002,609
State Crime Lab Fee	\$463,004	458,486
Weights and Measures		31
<b>Total to State of Wisconsin</b>	<b>\$2,003,320</b>	<b>\$1,871,355</b>
<b>COURT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,837,382</b>	<b>\$2,621,069</b>
<b>CITY REVENUES NET OF COURT EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$7,097,747</b>	<b>\$7,261,871</b>

## 2004 - 2005 Accomplishments and Challenges to Strategic Objectives

### *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the municipal court is to impartially adjudicate ordinance violation cases such that legal rights of individuals are safeguarded and public interest is protected.*

### **Case Management System Upgraded**

Much of 2005 was focused on the upgrade of the Court's computerized case management system - CATS. This project began in 2001 with a study documenting the need for the upgrade and will conclude with the completion of program enhancements in 2006 and 2007. The work on this project in 2005 sets the stage for the significant customer service improvements and staff efficiencies that will be realized in 2006 and beyond. The new system will allow the Court to automatically file property liens with the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, streamline the City Attorney's Office process for issuing subpoenas, automate the scheduling of some proceedings, etc. It will also allow the Court to explore expanded on-line services to defendants and the public.

### **Court Receives Public Policy Forum Award**

On June 23, 2005, the Court received the Public Policy Forum Salute to Local Government Innovation Award for Intra-Governmental Cooperation for the Drivers License Workforce Development Program. This award recognized the extraordinary cooperation exhibited by the many public and private sector entities that came together to ensure the success of this program. This was the second time in three years that the Court was recognized by the Public Policy Forum for innovation in local government.

### **Court Celebrates 30 Years of Service to Milwaukee Citizens**



On January 6, 2005, the Court celebrated our 30th anniversary. Current judges and court staff hosted a program and reception for former judges and staff, public officials, and friends. On behalf of the Court, Judge Mosley, Gramling and Hill accepted commendations from both Mayor Tom Barrett and Council President Willie Hines.

Over the Court's 30-year history, we adjudicated more than 3.2 million cases and returned more than \$125 million in revenue to the City. More importantly, the judges and court staff have provided a way for citizens to come to court in a convenient and accessible fashion to resolve their cases.



Judge Mosley accepts the Public Policy Forum Award on behalf of the Court.

☆ Justice 2000, the court's contracted social service agency since June of 2003, identified indigent defendants, and those with mental health, drug abuse or alcohol problems. The agency's assistance to the court made possible compliance rates of 75% in 2004 and 84.42% in 2005. Compliance with community service alternatives was 34% in 2004, and 36.50% in 2005. Compliance with AODA program referrals was 50% in 2004 and 66.04% with savings to the City of potential incarceration costs of approximately \$398,640 in 2004 and \$588,240 in 2005.

☆ Negotiated a two-year renewal of the contract with the Milwaukee Area Technical College for the defensive driving program. The agreement provides for stable program registration fees to participants for two years. In 2004, 487 traffic offenders registered for the Defensive Driving Course conducted by MATC. Of the 487 offenders, 76% or 369 completed the course. In 2005, 282 traffic offenders registered for the defensive driving course. Of the 282 offenders, 69.31% completed the course.

☆ In 2004, the Court's expenditures were and \$2,837,382, significantly less than the total revenues generated for the City. In 2005 the court's expenditures were \$2,621,069, also significantly less than total than the total revenues generated for the City.

☆ The Community Court Initiative was expanded to increase the opportunities for defendants to resolve issues before the court through payment of fines or community service placements. This initiative has involved the following organization/programs:

Project REACH  
Milwaukee Urban League  
Vet's Stand Down  
Neighborhood Youth Initiative  
Youth Development Boot Camp  
Journey House  
Kosciuszko Teen Court  
Better Self Jobs Task Force  
New Concepts

☆ Successfully implemented the Drivers License Workforce Development Program to assist persons with suspended drivers licenses to attain legal driving status. The program involved an extremely successful collaboration with community based organizations, WDOT and the West Allis Municipal Court. Through this program more than 1,000 drivers completed the program by returning to court with a valid

operators license and were rewarded by the judges' staying of 50% of the forfeiture for offenses under suspension.

☆ A compliance rate of 54.71% was achieved in community service referrals to the Social Development Commission in 2004. In 2005 a compliance rate of 51.19% was achieved.

## **Who We Are**

### Judges

James A. Gramling, Jr.  
Branch 3

Derek C. Mosley  
Branch 2

David R. Halbrooks  
Branch 1 until 4/30/04

Valarie A. Hill  
Branch 1 5/1/04 - Present

### Court Commissioners

Herman John

Michael Kopp

Lynn Hackbarth

Earlean Laster

### Administration

Kristine Hinrichs  
Chief Court Administrator

Clarice Hall Moore  
Assistant Court Administrator

Elaine Allen  
Court Accountant

Timothy Ringle  
Court Systems Administrator until 6/24/05

Tim O'Brien  
Court Systems Administrator until 5/5/06

Marina Andino  
Administrative Specialist

Monika Mangione  
Administrative Specialist

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